Listing of the Claims:

1.   (Currently amended): In a computer system having a file system configured to manage files on an existing storage mechanism in a namespace, a method for increasing storage capacity, comprising:

detecting an ~~the~~ addition of a new storage mechanism not mounted in a namespace of the file ~~computer~~ system viewable by a user;

selecting a file in the namespace of the file system from the existing storage mechanism;

moving some ~~at least part of the file~~ data of the selected file to the new storage mechanism; and

providing a link on the existing storage mechanism to the file data moved to the new storage mechanism such that the file data moved to the new storage mechanism is accessible via the link.

2.   (Currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein moving some ~~at least part of the file~~ data of the selected file to the new storage mechanism includes copying the file data to the new storage mechanism, and reclaiming storage space corresponding to the file data on the existing storage mechanism.

3.   (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein selecting a file of the file system from the existing storage mechanism includes determining the identity of a file via a policy.

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4.   (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein providing the link on the existing storage mechanism to the file data includes attaching a reparse point to the link.

5.   (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the reparse point includes the identity of a file containing the file data.

6.   (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the file data of the original file is maintained in another file, and further comprising enforcing rules related to file system operations on the link file and the other file.

7.   (Original): The method of claim 6 wherein the rules vary based on whether the other file is accessible at the time a file system operation is requested.

8.   (Original): The method of claim 1 further comprising, receiving a request for freespace, and in response, summing freespace of the existing storage mechanism with freespace of the new storage mechanism.

9.   (Currently amended): In a computer system having an existing storage mechanism configured with a corresponding namespace, a system for increasing storage capacity, comprising:

a new storage mechanism configured to the same corresponding namespace, the new storage mechanism not mounted in a namespace of the file system viewable by a user;

a component for migrating data of a file from the existing storage mechanism to the new storage mechanism in the same namespace; and

a link file on the existing storage mechanism, the link file associated with information for identifying the file data on the new storage mechanism.

10.   (Original): The system of claim 9 further comprising a mechanism for handling file operation requests directed to the link file via the file data on the new storage mechanism.

11.   (Original): The system of claim 10 wherein the mechanism includes a filter driver.

12.   (Original): The system of claim 10 wherein the mechanism includes executable code of a file system.

13.   (Original): The system of claim 10 wherein the mechanism handles

request for freespace by summing freespace of the existing storage mechanism

with freespace of the new storage mechanism.

14.   (Original): The system of claim 10 wherein the information

associated with the link file comprises a reparse point.

15.   (Original): The system of claim 14 wherein the reparse point

includes the identity of a file containing the file data.

16.   (Currently amended): In a computer system having a file system

with a namespace, a method comprising:

receiving a request to create a file on a first storage mechanism in the

namespace, and in response:

creating the file on a second storage mechanism <u>configured to</u> in

the same namespace<u>, the second storage mechanism not mounted in a

namespace of the file system viewable by a user</u>;

providing a link on the first storage mechanism to the second

storage mechanism; and

maintaining at least some file data of the file on the second storage

mechanism.

17.   (Original): The method of claim 16 further comprising, detecting the existence of the second storage mechanism.

18.   (Original): The method of claim 16 further comprising, returning a file handle to the link.

19.   (Original): The method of claim 18 further comprising, receiving requests including the file handle to the link, and further comprising, modifying the request to include a file handle to the file on the second storage mechanism.